

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5830

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LE

SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL NARCOTICS REPORT

REF: STATE 186490

POST SUBMITS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT IN FORMAT PREECRIBED IN REFTTEL

A. HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICALNT DEVELOPMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

1. HASHISH

(A) POST NOTES MARKED INCREASE IN HASHISH SEIZURES DURING REPORTED PERIOD, 6319 KILO PLUS 126 KILO HASHISH OIL. AS COMPARED TO 1980 KILO PLUS 130 KILO HASISH OIL FOR ENTIRE CALENDAR YEAR 1974 PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IS MORE AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS CONTROL LOADING LARGE HASHISH SHIPMENTS BY SMALL BOATS OPERATING FROM COAST. THREE IMPORTANT SEIZURES MADE AT SEA OF COAST OF LEBANON THIS SPRING, TOTALING APPROZIMATELY 3000 KILOGRAMS DEA/ BEIRUT ALSO INSTRUMENTAL ARRANGING WELL PUBLICIZED SEIZURE 1600 KILOS LEBANESE HASHISH FROM SHIP IN ELBE RIVER. (THIS AMOUNT IN ADDITION REPEAT IN ADDITION TO 6319 KILO TOTAL NOTED ABOVE.)

(B) ALTHOUGH THERE INCREASES EXTERNAL DEMAND FOR LEBANESE HASHISH, WE BELIEVE LESS GETTING OUT, EVIDENTLY IN VIEW INCREASED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. PATROLS AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM INTERNAL STRIFE IN LEBANON IN RECENT MONTHS. SOURCES HOLDING

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LARGE STOCKS OF HASHISH, PROBABLE DUE RELUCTANCE RISK SHIPMENT.

(C) WE NOTE DECREASE HASHISH CROP THIS YEAR, DOWN TO PROJECTED 175 TONS FROM ABOUT 225 LAST YEAR. THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT RESULT OF ATTEMPT PREVENT ILLEGAL CULTIVATION AS GOL HAS NOT REPEAT NOT VENTURED INTO THIS FIELD IN RECENT YEARS. UNDP CROP SUBSTITUTION PILOT PROGRAM PLAYED SOME ROLE IN DECREASE. WE BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT MOST CREDIT GOES TO INCREASED ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY ACTIVITIES AS NOTED ABOVE.

(D) ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE, IT STILL MUCH TOO EARLY DETERMINE WHETHER THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. REDUCTION IN ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, (WHICH ALWAYS POSSIBLE IN VIEW POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF PRODUCERS AND RETURN TO NORMAL INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION WOULD RESULT IN QUICK RETURN TO FORMER PRODUCTION LEVELS

2. HARD DRUGS.

THERE ARE NEW RUMORS OF MOVEMENT OF HEROIN PRODUCED IN LEBANESE LABS. NO FIRM EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE STORIES. LEBANON'S BEST CHEMIST NOW DECEASED, AND HIS SON, ALSO KNOWN CHEMIST, IN HIDING THERE APPEARS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT LEBANON WILL PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HARD DRUG PRODUCTION IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE THREAT HERE REMAINS POTENTIAL RATHER THAN ACTUAL, BUT MERITS OUR CONTINUED CLOSE ATTENTION.

B. NO CHANGES WERE MADE TO GRANT AGREEMENT DURING REPORTING PERIOD.

C. OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES DURING REPORTING PERIOD.

1. US PERSONNEL: WE ASSUME DEA/WASHINGTON PROVIDING FOR COSTS OF POST'S DEA SECTION. WE ALSO ASSUME THAT DEPARTMENT HAS DATA ON PERSONNEL COSTS FOR IN-COUNTRY TEAMS.

2. EQUIPMENT: NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS OBLIGATED OR EXPENDED.

3. CONTRACT SERVICES: NONE

4. TRAINING FROM DATA AVAILABLE TO POST, WE BELIEVE \$15,600 ALLOCATED FOR TRAINING IN US DURING REPORTING PERIOD. COSTS FOR IN COUNTRY PROGRAM NOT KNOWN.

5. OTHER: NONE

D. TYPES QUANTITY AND COST OF EQUIPMENT DELIVERED DURING REPORTING PERIOD.

529 4-DOOR PLYMOUTH VALIANT SEDANS FOR NARCOTICS POLICE. ESTIMATED COST 10,667 (NOTE THESE VEHICLES DELIVERED IN LIEU OF THE 2-DOOR PLYMOUTH DUSTERS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED. SUB-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STITUTION MADE WITHOUT CONFERRING WITH POST. THE VALIANTS ARE NOT ONLY LESS SUITABLE FOR SURVEILLANCE, BUT ARE MUCH MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DIVERSION, A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM HERE.)

E. TYPES, QUANTITY AND COST OF EQUIPMENT IN PIPELINE

1. ONE ADDITIONAL SEDAN FOR NARCOTICS POLICE, ALSO ASSUMED TO BE A PLYMOUTH VALIANT INSTEAD OF DUSTER. ESTIMATED COST \$5,300 (SEE NOTE ABOVE)

2. COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE FOR NARCOTICS POLICE, INCLUDING SEVEN

2-WAY RADIOS AND ACCESSORIES. ESTIMATED COST \$17,00.

FM OTHER SUPPORT COSTS.

NONE KNOW OTHER THAN OPERATION COSTS OF DEA BEIRUT, WHICH
WE ASSUME REPORTED BY DEA/ WASHINGTON.

G. NUMBER AND TYPE OF PEOPLE TRAINED;

1. IN COUNTRY TRAINING: JANUARY 1975 TWO WEEK COURSE FOR 60
POLICE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND TWO AND HALF DAY COURSE FOR 40
OFFICERS, PRIMARILY POLICE.

2. ONE NARCOTICS POLICE OFFICER. DEA ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL
DRUG ENFORCEMENT SCHOOL NO 11

3. FIVE CUSTOMS OFFICERS FOR CUSTOM COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS CONTROL. NO. 10.

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